

RemarksClaim Objections:

Claims 2, 12, 18, 19, and 29 were objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 2 does not end with a period;
- Claims 12, 18, 19, and 29 have misplaced "and"s.

These claims have been corrected.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a):

Claims 1-11, 13, 18, 22, 24, 30, 31, 37-39, 42-45, and 48-50 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahany.

REGARDING INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1:

Claim 1 was amended to specifically include the limitation that a range list is created that comprises only those nodes that are within one hop of the node. From this range list, network topology information is obtained from nodes on the list and used to identify a neighboring node that has a minimum depth from a root node.

Analysis of Mahany reveals that Mahany only creates routing tables. As stated by Mahany, "nodes learn the addresses of terminals by monitoring the traffic from terminals to the root. If a packet arrives from a terminal that is not contained in the routing table of the node, an entry is made in the routing table." Thus, the routing tables of Mahany contain entries for all nodes that packets were received from. Mahany fails to teach or otherwise suggest the creation of a range list comprising only those nodes that are within one hop of the node. Because of this, claim 1 is in proper condition for allowance.

REGARDING INDEPENDENT CLAIM 10:

Claim 10 was amended to state the following limitations:

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- a first network node receiving a first update message from a second network node of the plurality of network nodes within one hop of the first network node; and
- if the second network node is not in a range list of the first network node and therefore a new neighbor of the first network node, updating the range list of the first network node to include the second network node.

As discussed above, analysis of Mahany reveals that Mahany only creates routing tables. As stated by Mahany, "nodes learn the addresses of terminals by monitoring the traffic from terminals to the root. If a packet arrives from a terminal that is not contained in the routing table of the node, an entry is made in the routing table." Thus, the routing tables of Mahany are updated to include entries for all nodes which packets were received. Mahany fails to teach or otherwise suggest that if the second network node is not in a range list of the first network node and therefore a new neighbor of the first network node, updating the range list of the first network node to include the second network node. Because of this, claim 10 is in proper condition for allowance.

REGARDING INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 13, 18, 19, 22, 24, 30, 37, 40, 42, 46, and 50:

These claims have been amended to include the fact that the range list comprises routing and topological information for only those nodes that are within one hop of the node. Based on the arguments set forth above, these claims are in proper condition for allowance.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references. As the Applicant has overcome all substantive rejections given by the

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Examiner the Applicant contends that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's rejections to the pending claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter. Finally, please charge any fees (including extension of time fees) or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502117.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee, ET AL.

by: 

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